

**SOUTH RUSSELL VILLAGE PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Martha Bistriz, Jerry Canton, Ted Kruse, Greg Studen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth Cavanagh, Greg Gamm, Libby Sharkey. **GUESTS:** Tim Adler, Bill Koons

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Jerry had distributed a list of topics which were announced and not discussed at length.

They included:

- Veterans buried in the cemetery. Donations will be sought to purchase wreaths to put at each grave site
- Eagle Scout project proposal: a history of the interurban, a map of park trails
- Gutters and a rain barrel for the pavilion
- The Cats Den Garden Club will plant 1000 daffodils at the South Russell Cemetery
- Nature Works Grant money (16k) allocated for Geauga County will be announced in October.
- Geauga County Parks employee Paul Pira has been contacted about a possible burn we might observe.
- April 8, 2024 will be a solar eclipse. Martha will contact Don Himes to see if he would hold a viewing at the park.

FALL FESTIVAL: Jerry confirmed with the members present, the activities and responsibilities for the festival. Regarding parking at Gurney school on Sunday, there will be a soccer game(s) taking place. Festival parking will be designated on the east side (near the playground) parking area in front of the school.

Greg Studen reported that Linda Gilbert from the Geauga Park District will have a tent at the festival. She will bring sweep nets to distribute for people to catch and tag Monarch butterflies.

The ice cream truck and carmel corn vendors will be there.

MISC.: A honeysuckle bush will be removed from the butterfly garden that was installed as a girl scout project. The garden is no longer in use.

The Chagrin Falls Masons asked to install a flag pole and bench in honor/memory of someone (the name of the honoree was not mentioned). The flag pole would have a solar light on it. It

would be installed in the field behind and to the left of the parking lot (as you look at the pavilion from Bell Road) Ted moved that we approve the request. The motion passed.

The Chagrin middle school is holding cross country races at the park. The next race will be Tuesday, September 26.

Bill reported that two men from Chardon had camped by the flag pole at the entrance to the park. When asked to leave they claimed they are allowed to camp on public ground. Bill informed the committee there are rules against camping in the park but there is not an ordinance about camping on public land in South Russell. Council will be voting on a proposed ordinance to prohibit camping on public land in South Russell in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha B. Bistriz